IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently Amended) A <u>computer implemented</u> method of managing a project that includes a plurality of interdependent tasks <u>organized in a hierarchy,</u> comprising the steps of:

defining ~~a first and a second task of~~ the plurality of tasks and storing the ~~first and second~~ <u>defined plurality of</u> tasks in a database stored in a server that is selectively and remotely accessible over a computer network, each of the ~~first and second~~ <u>plurality of</u> tasks having a status associated therewith;

defining a first dependency relationship between <u>each of</u> the ~~first and the second~~ <u>defined plurality of</u> tasks <u>to define the hierarchy of tasks</u> and storing the defined first ~~dependency~~ <u>dependencies</u> in the database;

enabling remote <u>retrieval of the status from the database over the computer network and remote</u> updating of the status of ~~at least one of the first and second~~ <u>any of the plurality of tasks</u> over the computer network;

enabling remote definition of one of an Issue, a Change Request and a Change Order, the Issue identifying a problem within ~~the project~~ <u>an identified one of the defined plurality of tasks</u> whose resolution is to be tracked <u>and whose resolution is necessary for the identified task to be completed,</u> the Change Request identifying at least one step to be taken pending authorization to resolve <u>the</u> Issue and the Change Order identifying authorized steps to resolve the Issue;

storing the defined one of the Issue, Change Request and Change Order in the database; and

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enabling remote definition of at least one second dependency relationship between the defined Issue, Change Request or Change Order and ~~at least one of the first and second tasks~~ the identified task such that the defined one of the Issue, Change Request and Change Order is integrated into the hierarchy of tasks without changing the defined first dependencies and storing the defined second dependency in the database.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further including defining a permission that defines access rights for at least one of the ~~first task, the second task~~ defined plurality of tasks, the Issue, the Change Request and the Change Order.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the permission further defines a right to at least one of:

remotely change the status of at least one of the ~~first task and the second task~~ plurality of tasks, and

remotely change the first dependency relationship between ~~the~~ selected ones of the defined plurality of tasks.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second dependency relationships are selected from a group including Start-Start, Start-Finish, Finish-Start and Finish-Finish.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein at least one of the first and second dependency relationships defines a lag time between the start and/or finish of at least two of the defined plurality of ~~first and second~~ tasks, the Issue, the Change Request and the Change Order, depending upon the selected dependency relationship.

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6. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the problem identified by the Issue is a problem that was previously unidentified at the time when the ~~first and second~~ **plurality of** tasks were defined.

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein each of the defined Issue, Change Order and Change Request includes a status associated therewith and wherein the method further includes a step of enabling remote updating of the status of one of the defined Issue, Change Request and Change Order.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 7, wherein the status of the **plurality of tasks** ~~first task, the second task,~~ the defined Issue, Change Order and Change Request is selected from a group including not started, on track, complete, in trouble, on hold and cancelled.

9. **(Original)** The method of claim 2, wherein the permission further defines a right to remotely change the at least one stored second dependency relationship.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of maintaining a selectively and remotely accessible graphical representation of **the hierarchy, including**:

~~the first task;~~

~~the second task~~ **the plurality of tasks or selected ones of the plurality of tasks**;

the first dependency relationship;

at least one of the defined Issue, Change Request and the Change Order, and

the **at least one** second dependency relationship.

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11.   **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 10, wherein the selectively and remotely accessible graphical **of the hierarchy** representation is rendered on a Web browser.

12.   **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of defining and storing in the database an identity of at least one entity allowed access to and/or having responsibility for each of the defined ~~first and second~~ **plurality of** tasks, the defined Issue, Change Request or the Change Order.

13.   **(Original)** The method of claim 12, wherein the entity is selected from a group including a project team, a project member, a subcontractor and a vendor.

14.   **(Canceled)**

15.   **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the computer network crosses enterprise boundaries.

16.   **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 10, wherein the graphical representation **of the hierarchy** includes a selectively expandable hierarchical tree that shows the ~~first task, the second task~~ **plurality of tasks or selected ones of the plurality of tasks**, the first dependency relationship, at least one of the defined Issue, Change Request and the Change Order, and the **at least one** second dependency relationship.

17.   **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of prompting for the remote definition of one of the Issue, Change Request, Change Order and the at least one second dependency relationship when the status of at least one of the **plurality of** tasks is updated.

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18.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of enabling a document to be associated with at least one of the defined ~~first and second~~ __plurality of__ tasks, the Issue, the Change Request and the Change Order and enabling the associated document to be stored in the database.

19.   (Currently Amended) A __computer-implemented__ method of participating in a project that includes a plurality of interdependent tasks __organized in a hierarchy__, comprising the steps of:

accessing a remote database over a computer network, the database storing:

a definition of ~~a first and a second task of~~ the plurality of tasks,

a status associated with each of the ~~first and second~~ __defined__ tasks, and

a first dependency relationship between ~~the first and the second task~~ __each of the defined plurality of tasks__;

updating of the status of at least one of the ~~first and second~~ __plurality of__ tasks over the computer network;

defining and causing to be stored in the database at least one of an Issue, a Change Request and a Change Order, the Issue identifying a problem within ~~the project~~ __an identified one of the plurality of tasks__ whose resolution is to be tracked __and whose resolution is necessary for the identified task to be completed__, the Change Request identifying at least one step to be taken pending authorization to resolve Issue and the Change Order identifying authorized steps to resolve the Issue; and

defining at least one second dependency relationship between the defined Issue, Change Request or Change Order and ~~at least one of the first and second tasks~~ __the identified task such that the defined one of the Issue, Change Request and Change Order is integrated__

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into the hierarchy of tasks without changing the defined first dependencies and causing the

defined second dependency to be stored in the database.

20.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein a permission is assigned

that defines access rights for each of the ~~first task, the second task~~ plurality of tasks, the first

dependency relationship, the Issue, the Change Request, the Change Order and the second

dependency relationship.

21.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the accessing step

selectively accesses selected ones of the stored ~~first and second~~ plurality of tasks, the status

associated with each of the ~~first and second~~ plurality of tasks, and the first dependency

relationship between the ~~first and the second task~~ plurality of tasks depending upon the

assigned permission.

22.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the permission further

defines a right to at least one of:

       changing the status of at least one of the ~~first task and the second task~~ plurality of

tasks, and

       changing the first dependency relationship between ~~the first and second task~~ selected

ones of the plurality of tasks.

23.   (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein at least one of the first and second

dependency relationships are selected from a group including Start-Start, Start-Finish, Finish-

Start and Finish-Finish.

24.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein at least one of the first and second dependency relationships defines a lag time between the start and/or finish of at least two of the defined first and second plurality of tasks, the Issue, the Change Request and the Change Order, depending upon the selected dependency relationship.

25.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the problem identified by the Issue is a problem that was previously unidentified at the time when the first and second plurality of tasks were defined.

26.   (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein each of the defined Issue, Change Order and Change Request includes a status associated therewith and wherein the method further includes a step of updating the status of one of the defined Issue, Change Request and Change Order.

27.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the status of the first task, the second task each of the plurality of tasks, the defined Issue, Change Order and Change Request is selected from a group including not started, on track, complete, in trouble, on hold and cancelled.

28.   (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the permission further defines a right to change the at least one stored second dependency relationship.

29.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of viewing a graphical representation of hierarchy, including the plurality of tasks or selected ones of the plurality of tasks the first task, the second task, the first dependency relationship,

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at least one of the defined Issue, Change Request and the Change Order, and the <u>at least one</u> second dependency relationship on a Web browser.

30.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of inputting a definition of one of the Issue, Change Request, Change Order and the at least one second dependency relationship upon updating the status of at least one of the ~~first and second~~ <u>plurality of</u> tasks.

31.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising a step of defining and causing to be stored in the database an identity of at least one entity allowed access to and/or having responsibility for each of the defined ~~first and second~~ <u>plurality of</u> tasks, the defined Issue, Change Request or the Change Order.

32.   (Original) The method of Claim 31, wherein the entity is selected from a group including a project team, a project member, a subcontractor and a vendor.

33.   (Canceled)

34.   (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the computer network crosses enterprise boundaries.

35.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein the graphical representation <u>of the hierarchy</u> includes a selectively expandable hierarchical tree that shows the ~~first task, the second task~~ <u>plurality of tasks or selected ones of the plurality of tasks</u>, the first dependency relationship, at least one of the defined Issue, Change Request and the Change Order, and the second dependency relationship.

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36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising the steps of associating a document with at least one of the defined first-and-second plurality of tasks, the Issue, the Change Request and the Change Order and causing the associated document to be stored in the database.

37. (Currently Amended) A computer system configured for managing a project timeline that includes a plurality of interdependent tasks organized in a hierarchy, comprising:

at least one processor;

at least one data storage device;

a plurality of processes spawned by said at least one processor, the processes including processing logic for:

defining a first and a second task of the plurality of tasks and storing the first and second defined plurality of tasks in a database stored in a server that is selectively and remotely accessible over a computer network, each of the first and second plurality of tasks having a status associated therewith;

defining a first dependency relationship between each of the first and the second defined plurality of tasks to define the hierarchy of tasks and storing the defined first dependency dependencies in the database;

enabling remote retrieval of the status from the database over the computer network and remote updating of the status of at least one of the first and second any of the plurality of tasks over the computer network;

enabling remote definition of one of an Issue, a Change Request and a Change Order, the Issue identifying a problem within the project an identified one of the defined plurality of tasks whose resolution is to be tracked and whose resolution is necessary for the identified

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<u>task to be completed</u>, the Change Request identifying at least one step to be taken pending

authorization to resolve <u>the</u> Issue and the Change Order identifying authorized steps to resolve

the Issue;

storing the defined one of the Issue, Change Request and Change Order in the database;

and

enabling remote definition of at least one second dependency relationship between the

defined Issue, Change Request or Change Order and ~~at least one of the first and second tasks~~

<u>the identified task such that the defined one of the Issue, Change Request and Change</u>

<u>Order is integrated into the hierarchy of tasks without changing the defined first</u>

<u>dependencies</u> and storing the defined second dependency in the database.

38.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, further including <u>processing</u>

<u>logic for defining</u> a permission that defines access rights for at least one of the first task, the

second task, the Issue, the Change Request and the Change Order.

39.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 38, wherein the permission further

defines a right to at least one of:

remotely change the status of at least one of the ~~first task and the second task~~ <u>plurality</u>

<u>of tasks</u>, and

remotely change the first dependency relationship between ~~the~~ <u>selected ones of the</u>

<u>defined plurality of tasks</u>.

40.   (Original)   The system of claim 37, wherein at least one of the first and second

dependency relationships are selected from a group including Start-Start, Start-Finish, Finish-

Start and Finish-Finish.

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41.   **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 40, wherein at least one of the first and second dependency relationships defines a lag time between the start and/or finish of at least two of the defined **plurality of** ~~first and second~~ tasks, the Issue, the Change Request and the Change Order, depending upon the selected dependency relationship.

42.   **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 37, wherein the problem identified by the Issue is a problem that was previously unidentified at the time when the ~~first and second~~ **plurality of** tasks were defined.

43.   **(Original)** The system of claim 37, wherein each of the defined Issue, Change Order and Change Request includes a status associated therewith and wherein the method further includes a step of enabling remote updating of the status of one of the defined Issue, Change Request and Change Order.

44.   **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 43, wherein the status of the **plurality of tasks** ~~first task, the second task~~, the defined Issue, Change Order and Change Request is selected from a group including not started, on track, complete, in trouble, on hold and cancelled.

45.   **(Original)** The system of claim 38, wherein the permission further defines a right to remotely change the at least one stored second dependency relationship.

46.   **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 37, further comprising **processing logic to carry out** the step of maintaining a selectively and remotely accessible graphical representation of **the hierarchy, including**:

    ~~the first task;~~

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~~the second task~~ the plurality of tasks or selected ones of the plurality of tasks;

the first dependency relationship;

at least one of the defined Issue, Change Request and the Change Order, and

the at least one second dependency relationship.

47.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 46, wherein the selectively and remotely accessible graphical representation of the hierarchy is rendered on a Web browser.

48.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, further comprising processing logic to carry out a step of defining and storing in the database an identity of at least one entity allowed access to and/or having responsibility for each of the defined ~~first and second~~ plurality of tasks, the defined Issue, Change Request or the Change Order.

49.   (Original) The system of claim 48, wherein the entity is selected from a group including a project team, a project member, a subcontractor and a vendor.

50.   (Canceled)

51.   (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the computer network crosses enterprise boundaries.

52.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 46, wherein the graphical representation of the hierarchy includes a selectively expandable hierarchical tree that shows the ~~first task, the second task~~ plurality of tasks or selected ones of the plurality of tasks, the first dependency relationship, at least one of the defined Issue, Change Request and the Change Order, and the at least one second dependency relationship.

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53.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, further comprising processing logic to carry out the step of prompting for the remote definition of one of the Issue, Change Request, Change Order and the at least one second dependency relationship when the status of at least one of the first and second one of the plurality of tasks is updated.

54.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, further comprising processing logic to carry out the steps of enabling a document to be associated with at least one of the defined first and second plurality of tasks, the Issue, the Change Request and the Change Order and enabling the associated document to be stored in the database.

55.   (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having data stored thereon representing sequences of instructions which, when executed by computing device, causes said computing device to manage a project timeline that includes a plurality of interdependent tasks organized in a hierarchy by performing the steps of:

defining a first and a second task of the plurality of tasks and storing the first and second defined plurality of tasks in a database stored in a server that is selectively and remotely accessible over a computer network, each of the first and second plurality of tasks having a status associated therewith;

defining a first dependency relationship between each of the first and the second defined plurality of tasks to define the hierarchy of tasks and storing the defined first dependency dependencies in the database;

enabling remote retrieval of the status from the database over the computer network and remote updating of the status of at least one of the first and second any of the plurality of tasks over the computer network;

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enabling remote definition of one of an Issue, a Change Request and a Change Order, the Issue identifying a problem within ~~the project~~ an identified one of the defined plurality of tasks whose resolution is to be tracked and whose resolution is necessary for the identified task to be completed, the Change Request identifying at least one step to be taken pending authorization to resolve the Issue and the Change Order identifying authorized steps to resolve the Issue;

storing the defined one of the Issue, Change Request and Change Order in the database; and

enabling remote definition of at least one second dependency relationship between the defined Issue, Change Request or Change Order and ~~at least one of the first and second tasks~~ the identified task such that the defined one of the Issue, Change Request and Change Order is integrated into the hierarchy of tasks without changing the defined first dependencies and storing the defined second dependency in the database.

56. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 55, further including defining a permission that defines access rights for at least one of the ~~first task, the second task~~ defined plurality of tasks, the Issue, the Change Request and the Change Order.

57. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 56, wherein the permission further defines a right to at least one of:

remotely change the status of at least one of the ~~first task and the second task~~ plurality of tasks, and

remotely change the first dependency relationship between ~~the~~ selected ones of the defined plurality of tasks.

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58. (Original) The medium of claim 55, wherein at least one of the first and second dependency relationships are selected from a group including Start-Start, Start-Finish, Finish-Start and Finish-Finish.

59. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 58, wherein at least one of the first and second dependency relationships defines a lag time between the start and/or finish of at least two of the defined **plurality of** ~~first and second~~ tasks, the Issue, the Change Request and the Change Order, depending upon the selected dependency relationship.

60. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 55, wherein the problem identified by the Issue is a problem that was previously unidentified at the time when the ~~first and second~~ **plurality of** tasks were defined.

61. (Original) The medium of claim 55, wherein each of the defined Issue, Change Order and Change Request includes a status associated therewith and wherein the method further includes a step of enabling remote updating of the status of one of the defined Issue, Change Request and Change Order.

62. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 61, wherein the status of the ~~first task, the second task~~ **plurality of tasks**, the defined Issue, Change Order and Change Request is selected from a group including not started, on track, complete, in trouble, on hold and cancelled.

63. (Original) The medium of claim 56, wherein the permission further defines a right to remotely change the at least one stored second dependency relationship.

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64.   (**Currently Amended**) The medium of claim 55, further comprising the step of maintaining a selectively and remotely accessible graphical representation of **the hierarchy, including**:

~~the first task;~~

~~the second task~~ **the plurality of tasks or selected ones of the plurality of tasks**;

the first dependency relationship;

at least one of the defined Issue, Change Request and the Change Order, and

the **at least one** second dependency relationship.

65.   (**Currently Amended**) The medium of claim 64, wherein the selectively and remotely accessible graphical representation **of the hierarchy** is rendered on a Web browser.

66.   (**Currently Amended**) The medium of claim 55, further comprising a step of defining and storing in the database an identity of at least one entity allowed access to and/or having responsibility for each of the defined ~~first and second~~ **plurality of** tasks, the defined Issue, Change Request or the Change Order.

67.   (**Original**) The medium of claim 66, wherein the entity is selected from a group including a project team, a project member, a subcontractor and a vendor.

68.   (**Canceled**)

69.   (**Original**) The medium of Claim 55, wherein the computer network crosses enterprise boundaries.

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70.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 64, wherein the graphical representation **of the hierarchy** includes a selectively expandable hierarchical tree that shows the ~~first task, the second task~~ **the plurality of tasks or selected ones of the plurality of tasks**, the first dependency relationship, at least one of the defined Issue, Change Request and the Change Order, and the **at least one** second dependency relationship.

71.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 55, further comprising the step of prompting for the remote definition of one of the Issue, Change Request, Change Order and the at least one second dependency relationship when the status of at least one of the ~~first and second~~ **plurality of** tasks is updated.

72.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 55, further comprising the steps of enabling a document to be associated with at least one of the defined ~~first and second~~ **plurality of** tasks, the Issue, the Change Request and the Change Order and enabling the associated document to be stored in the database.

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